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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMLEGATION, HELSINKI

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Memorandum of Conversation, May 27, 1953

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SUBJECT:

Rumored Soviet Demands on Finland

Upon the receipt of a copy from the Department of a Memorandum of Conversation, dated May 27, 1953, between Congressman Charles J. Kerston and Mr. Ronhovde concerning the story allegedly from a New York Czech language newspaper, the "Rumored Soviet Demands on Finland" were brought orally to the attention of Mr. Wartiovaara, the Acting Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry. He dismissed the report as preposterous. Each figure in the story brought forth a fresh exclamation from Mr. Wartiovaara. He has recently been in the United States for a number of years at the Finnish Legation and he remarked that during that time he was frequently aware of the extravagant stories which were published about European affairs, especially in the foreign language newspapers in the United States.

Mr. Wartiovaara observed that there was absolutely nothing to add to previous denials about rumors of Soviet demands on Finland. He concluded "We are trying to get on with the Russians and trade with them but that is all". It would appear that a great variety of rumors on this subject will recur from time to time and the Legation will continue to be on the alert to ascertain if at any time there is any foundation for them.

For the Minister:

Frances E. Willis
Counselor of Legation

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REPORTER

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